

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

November 3, 2014

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

November 7

BRAVO presentation (Brooks Middle School)

December 4

Specials Showcase

December 9-10

Outdoor Education

## News

### Number Hawks Volunteer Opportunity

Holmes is looking for volunteers to tutor students, primarily in Grades K-2, to become proficient mathematicians. Through strategically planned lessons and continuous data collection, you will help Holmes students increase their basic number sense. Can you commit to as little as 20 minutes one day per week or as much as 30 minutes every day? Please fill out the Google form (link below) so that you can be contacted about a tutoring training session and mandatory background check required by the district.

"Number Hawks" are set to take flight this November.

[https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/forms/d/1clY-Wvw9mWrvGmEB6reqPTRdvWyR48H5eQ8J7Jhh\\_sg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/forms/d/1clY-Wvw9mWrvGmEB6reqPTRdvWyR48H5eQ8J7Jhh_sg/viewform)

### BRAVO presentation of *Into the Woods*

On Friday, we will take a walking field trip to Brooks Middle School for a BRAVO performance. Permission slips were distributed last week. There is no charge for this field trip, but we must have a signed permission slip for each student. Please make sure your child returns a signed permission slip to his/her homeroom teacher by Wednesday.

### Outdoor Education Field Trip

This year's overnight trip will be on December 9 - 10. Permission slips will go home this week. The cost of this field trip is \$70. You may pay online or by check payable to District 97. We want every 5th grade student to be able to attend this trip, so if the cost of this trip will cause undue hardship, please contact Maria Pascarella (our school's social worker) or your child's homeroom teacher so that we can work something out.

### Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

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## SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th grade artists are taking what we learned about two-dimensional lines and creating three-dimensional lines out of clay. Using clay coils, students are constructing 6"x6" clay tiles. They have to use a ruler to measure the tile correctly. They are free to design their own tile using spirals, zig zags, waves, curls or any other type of line, but there can be no negative, or empty space. We will be firing these next week and then glazing them.

**Music** - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> Check out our website (the 5th grade tab) to see Ms. Manuel's class dancing to the Huayno dance of South America. **Recorder update:** students will be receiving letters this week if they do not have their recorders in class. We are starting preparations on songs from Africa for our **specials showcase on December 4th! Please save the date.** More details will be coming soon!

**Chorus** - Our performance is coming in just a few weeks! Auditions for solos for the Oak Park Arms concert will be this Monday, October 27th. Also, there are videos of the songs we will be doing at the concert on the chorus page at <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> . Just click on the chorus tab.

**Gold Belt**- Our performance at the Oak Park Arms is in a few weeks. Since Gold Belt Ensemble is performing with chorus on one song, I have asked the teachers if students can be released for just a few minutes on Wednesday morning, November 5th to practice with the chorus. If you have any questions regarding this please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org).

**Spanish** - The students did a wonderful job of summarizing their stories and transforming them into movies and trailers. They also completed timed writing assessments as well as comprehension assessments. We will be starting with new stories this week and changing class groups. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

**Library** - Did you know you can access the library catalog from any device? Students will be learning how to access the library catalog from their iPads over the next couple of weeks, and will complete a scavenger hunt with catalog related questions. Reading Olympians: Please continue to read! The Holmes competition is Wednesday, December 3. Need to know which book you're reading? Check in with your designated "team captain" or with Ms. Maneck in the library. Please email [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with any questions. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

**Physical Education** - Coming for the entire month of November is HEARTLAND ADVENTURE. The kids go through a maze of obstacles as they explore the circulatory and respiratory systems ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com))

### Reading/Literature

This week, reading mini lessons will center around studying the characters in fiction texts. Students will learn that main characters always have connections to the other characters in a book. Students will apply this learning by creating a "Character Connections" chart in their Reader's Notebook. The chart describes the important characters in the students' novels as well as the connections between the main character and the other characters. Other mini lesson topics will include growing theories about characters, expecting complications in characters, and attending to objects that reveal characters.

### Writing

We will continue to create lists of "seeds" for personal narrative stories and try out quick versions of these stories by writing notebook entries of these small, important moments. We will also review strategies for writing strong narratives by telling stories step-by-step using actions, descriptions,

thoughts, and dialogue.

### **Math**

Graded division assessments will be returned to students this week. In math, we are continuing our study of volume. Last week, we used centimeter cubes to measure volume. This week, we will build on that to determine volume of a prism by multiplying length, width and height. We will also look at the relationship between cubic centimeters and milliliters as we calculate the volume of liquids. Then, we will work determining the volume of other solid figures by decomposing the figures into rectangular prisms and calculating the volume of each prism.

All students have developed action plans to help them achieve their winter MAP goal. If you haven't yet reviewed your child's action plan, please do, and have your student return the signed action plan to his/her teacher. Students should be completing their action plan items in addition to daily homework.

### **Science**

In science this week, we will discuss flooding, levees, and floodplains. We will plant grass so that in a few weeks we can simulate an excess of water on soil and vegetation vs. "cement." This will illustrate how humans are affecting our environment.

### **Social Studies**

We will continue our new unit focusing on how geography affected the way Native Americans lived. Using the classwork and homework from last week students will compare and contrast tribes by the region they lived in. For homework this week, students will read a passage about the controversy of using native american names and images as sports mascots.

### **Spelling/Word Study**

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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